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Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Week in Review & What's Ahead

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WASHINGTON

By Eli Yokley

Week in Review

Impeachment

- In a 49-51 vote, the Senate blocked a push to consider witnesses in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial. Two Republicans, Susan Collins of Maine and Mitt Romney of Utah, voted to consider additional testimony.
- Revelations in an unpublished book manuscript by John Bolton, the former White House national security adviser, added fuel to the debate over whether the Senate should call witnesses in the impeachment trial. It was reported that he said Trump told him in August that he wanted to continue freezing U.S. security assistance to Ukraine until officials there helped with investigations into his domestic political rivals, which Trump denied in a late-night tweet.
- Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) said Bolton told him in a September phone call to examine the ouster of former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. Bolton also reportedly wrote that he told Attorney General William Barr last year he had concerns that the president was granting personal favors to the autocratic leaders of Turkey and China.

The Trump administration

- Charles Cooper, Bolton's lawyer, pushed back on the National Security Council's determination that Bolton's forthcoming book contains classified information, asking the White House for an expedited review of a chapter about Ukraine, according to a Jan. 24 email. The emails between Bolton's lawyer and the National Security Council suggest a protracted dispute over Bolton's book is likely.
- Trump expanded his travel ban to 13 countries, placing new restrictions on people from Nigeria, Africa's biggest country, as well as Myanmar, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan and Tanzania. The six countries have substantial Muslim populations.
- Trump unveiled his long-awaited Middle East peace plan alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who's facing a tough re-election contest in March. It heavily favors Israel, envisioning Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem and land swaps between areas controlled by the Israelis and Palestinians, while not formally ruling out a Palestinian state.
- Trump signed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. It marked a rare bipartisan achievement during his impeachment trial, but Trump excluded Democrats from the signing ceremony, while including hundreds of Republican lawmakers.
- The State Department issued a "do not travel" advisory to China amid the deadly coronavirus outbreak after the World Health Organization declared coronavirus a global health emergency. The Trump administration also announced mandatory quarantines and declared a "public health emergency" in response to the virus as more cases were reported in the United States.
- Lawyers for the advice columnist E. Jean Carroll asked the president's attorney for a DNA sample from Trump. Carroll filed a defamation suit against Trump in November after he denied her allegation that he raped her in a New York City department store dressing room in the 1990s.
- The Supreme Court issued a 5-4 ruling allowing the Trump administration to begin enforcing a measure that would make it harder for poor immigrants to obtain green cards. The so-called "public charge" rule broadens the government's ability to deny green cards to legal immigrants who are determined to be dependent on public assistance programs.

Congress

- The House passed two measures seeking to restrict Trump's ability to target Iran militarily, with both votes receiving support from some Republicans. One measure, sponsored by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), would prevent Trump from using military funds to strike Iran without congressional approval, while another, sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), would repeal the 2002 authorization for the use of military force in Iraq that has been used by three administrations to justify various hostilities.

2020

- Former Vice President Joe Biden's aides are said to have pitched Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)'s campaign on an alliance in this week's Iowa caucuses, with the two campaigns potentially helping each other in voting precincts where one candidate does not have enough support to win delegates. Democrats familiar with the meeting said Klobuchar was not currently interested in the Biden campaign's proposal, and her spokesman said her campaign does not "intend to" make any caucus deals.
- Biden said Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) "spilled the beans" when she said she was "really interested" to see how the Trump legal team's focus on the Bidens during the impeachment trial would affect Iowa's caucus voters. Speaking at a campaign event in Iowa, Biden said "the whole impeachment trial for Trump is just a political hit job to try to smear me."
- Former Maryland Rep. John Delaney, the first Democrat to declare his candidacy for president, dropped out of the race and will not participate in the Iowa caucuses after a poor showing in the polls and failing to make most of the primary debates. In an interview with CNN, Delaney - who launched his campaign in a 2017 op-ed and spent more time in Iowa than any other candidate - said he did not want to take support away from other moderate candidates in the race.
- The Democratic National Committee announced an overhaul to the criteria used to determine who qualifies for the party's Feb. 19 presidential debate, with candidates now needing to earn at least 10 percent in four polls released between Jan. 15 and Feb. 18, or 12 percent in two polls in Nevada or South Carolina. In addition to the increase in the requisite polling threshold, candidates who earn at least one delegate to the national convention from the upcoming races in Iowa and New Hampshire will also qualify, and

candidates are also no longer required to secure a certain amount of individual donors, which could put former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg - who has refused to accept donations - in prime position to make the debate stage in Las Vegas later this month.

- Rep. Doug Collins announced he's challenging newly appointed Sen. Kelly Loeffler for the Republican nomination for Senate in Georgia, according to sources. Loeffler, a former executive, has the backing of Gov. Brian Kemp (R), while Collins, a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump, is hoping to launch his campaign with the support of Trump's inner circle and perhaps the president himself.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are in session.
- Iowa will hold presidential caucuses Monday night, the first nominating contests of the year.
- Trump will deliver the State of the Union address on Wednesday. He will reportedly not mention the impeachment trial, and focus instead on his achievements in office as a fresh start for his re-election bid, according to officials.
- The Senate is set to vote Wednesday to acquit Trump.
- The Republican Steering Committee, which leads committee assignments, is set to meet this week as it looks to replace Collins, who is expected to step down as the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee as he runs for Senate. Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the top Republican on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, is expected to make a bid for the seat.
- Democratic presidential candidates will participate in a debate in New Hampshire on Friday. Candidates have until Thursday to qualify, but so far seven have made the stage: Biden, Klobuchar, Pete Buttigieg, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Steyer and Andrew Yang.

- Federal budget debt and deficits over the next decade will hit the highest levels since World War II, according to a new Congressional Budget Office report, with national debt predicted to rise to 98 percent of gross domestic product by 2030. Trump campaigned on paying off the federal debt within eight years, but his tax cuts are projected to increase budget deficits over the next 10 years, which could grow even higher if the cuts are extended beyond their scheduled 2025 expiration.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

02/03/2020

Iowa caucuses

Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference

02/04/2020

Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference

Janet Yellen, David Malpass participate in Bipartisan Policy Center event 9:30 am

Rep. McCaul participates in AEI event on China 10:00 am

Trump to deliver State of the Union address 9:00 pm

02/05/2020

Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference

Biden, Warren, Yang and Steyer participate in CNN New Hampshire town halls

House Energy & Commerce subcommittee holds hearing on vaping 10:30 am

Preet Bharara participates in New Republic event 7:30 pm

02/06/2020

Sanders, Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Patrick participate in CNN New Hampshire town halls

Attorney general, FBI director participate in CSIS event on China 8:00 am

U.S. ambassador to NATO participates in Heritage Foundation event 4:30 pm

[View full calendar](#)

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SPECIAL REPORT

NFL FANS' FAVORITE BRANDS

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Special Report: NFL Fans' Favorite Brands

Ahead of the 2020 Super Bowl, Morning Consult conducted new research into the brands NFL fans love. The report highlights the topline findings, including favorite brands in key categories, brands that overperform with NFL fans, the preferred chip and beer brand for every fanbase, and shifting perceptions of the NFL in the years following the anthem kneeling controversy.

[Download the full report.](#)

Morning Consult Washington Top Reads

- 1)** [Coronavirus declared global health emergency by WHO after 1st person-to-person US case reported](#)
Erin Schumaker, ABC News
- 2)** [Supreme Court allows Trump to enforce 'public charge' immigration rule](#)
Susannah Luthi, Politico
- 3)** [How Trump's impeachment created two Democratic superstars](#)
Jake Sherman and Heather Caygle, Politico
- 4)** [How Endorsements Could Shape a Narrowing Democratic Presidential Field](#)
Eli Yokley, Morning Consult
- 5)** [Trump Tied Ukraine Aid to Inquiries He Sought, Bolton Book Says](#)
Maggie Haberman and Michael S. Schmidt, The New York Times
- 6)** [Woman who says Trump raped her seeks his DNA](#)
Jennifer Peltz, The Associated Press
- 7)** [NFL's Reputation Rebounds as Republicans Let Go of Trump-Inspired Grudge](#)
Alex Silverman, Morning Consult
- 8)** [Republicans Move to Block Impeachment Witnesses, Driving Toward Acquittal](#)
Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Michael D. Shear, The New York Times
- 9)** [Key GOP senators say reports on Bolton book bolster case for witnesses in impeachment trial](#)
Seung Min Kim et al., The Washington Post
- 10)** [For The New York Times, a Democratic Primary Endorsement With Little Impact](#)
Eli Yokley, Morning Consult





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